

REMARKS

With this Response, claims 26 and 35 are amended. No claims are added or canceled.

Therefore, claims 26-43 are pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Advisory Action maintained the rejection of claims 26-33 and 35-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,118,763 issued to Trumbull (*Trumbull*). Applicants respectfully submit that this reference fails to anticipate the claimed invention for at least the following reasons.

Claim 26 recites the following:

an RJ-11 port to receive an RJ-11 connector from end user equipment or a telephone network;
a detection circuit to **automatically detect whether the RJ-11 port receives an RJ-11 connector from end user equipment or from a telephone network**; and
a control circuit to **automatically configure the RJ-11 port to interface to the end user equipment in response to detecting that the port receives an RJ-11 connector from the end user equipment or to interface to the telephone network in response to detecting that the port receives an RJ-11 connector from the telephone network.**

Claim 35 is an independent method claim directed to detecting whether an RJ-11 port engages with a connector from end user equipment or a telephone network and automatically configuring the port in response to detecting what engages with the RJ-11 port.

Trumbull discusses aggregating voice data from multiple locations and mapping the data to multiple locations, including to a pair of telephone ports 275. See col. 9, line 65 to col. 10, line 19; col. 10, lines 51 to 62; col. 16, lines 9 to 16 and 54 to 57. The reference discusses receiving data at an ATM port 270 and mapping the signals to various types of equipment that may be connected to ports 275. See col. 9, lines 54 to 60 and col. 16, lines 54 to 57. *Trumbull* discusses the two telephone ports being "independently hardware configurable," with the

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configuration being "selected by controlling a telephone line interface circuit 280." Col. 13, line 66 to col. 14, line 7. The reference fails to explicitly, implicitly, or inherently disclose **detecting** whether a port receives a connector from end user equipment or from a telephone network.

Even assuming that *Trumbull* may be interpreted as disclosing detecting the connection on the port, which Applicants maintain is improper, *Trumbull* fails to disclose or suggest configuring the port **in response** to detecting whether the port receives a connector from end user equipment or a telephone network. Applicants submit that merely stating that a port may be configured **does not support** an interpretation that the port is configured in response to detecting whether the port receives a connector from end user equipment or a telephone network.

Furthermore, the reference states: "each telephone port 275 can be configured to function as a telephone set, a subscriber line interface, or a direct audio-in/audio-out circuit." Col. 14, lines 3 to 6. Applicants note that **none** of these examples refers to or may be understood to be a "telephone network," as recited in the claims. Each telephone port 275 is assumed in the reference to connect to end user equipment, and not to a telephone network. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the reference fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of the claimed invention, and so fails to anticipate the invention under MPEP § 2131.

Claims 27-33 depend from claim 26, and claims 36-42 depend from claim 35. Because dependent claims necessarily include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are not anticipated by the reference for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Advisory Action maintained the rejection of claims 34 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Trumbull* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,272,209 issued to

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Bridger et al. (*Bridger*). These claims depend from independent claims 26 and 35, respectively. *Trumbull* is shown above to fail to disclose at least one element of the independent claims. Applicants respectfully submit that *Bridger* suffers at least the same deficiencies in failing to disclose or suggest at least the same claim element mentioned above with respect to *Trumbull*. Thus, whether alone or in combination, the references fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of the independent claims. Because dependent claim necessarily include the limitations of the independent claims from which they depend, Applicants respectfully submit that the references fail to render obvious the invention as recited in these claims.

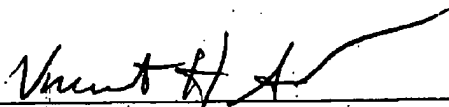
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections have been overcome herein, placing all pending claims in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the above-referenced application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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